

# Working Group Meeting No. 1

Location: Big Fish Grill

February 5, 2004

5:30 – 8:30 PM

# Agenda

6:00 PM	Working Group Member Self-Introductions
6:10 PM	Welcome
6:25 PM	Getting Organized
6:35 PM	Introduction of Working Group Guidelines
6:45 PM	Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Listening Tour and Public Workshop
7:00 PM	Draft Purpose and Need
7:15 PM	Development Activity/Proposals in the Project Area
7:40 PM	Developing and Evaluating Alternatives
8:00 PM	Introduction of Goals and Objectives
8:05 PM	Working Group Identification of Problems and Solutions
8:15 PM	Questions and Discussion
8:25 PM	Next Meeting Date and Agenda
8:30 PM	Adjourn

# Working Group Member Introductions (Tab 1)

# Purpose and Role of the Working Group (Tab 1)

- Purpose

- Provide advice to DeIDOT regarding transportation improvements for the entrance to Rehoboth Beach.

- Role

- Assist DeIDOT by providing input, making suggestions, reviewing alternatives, narrowing the range of alternatives, recommending alternatives that will receive detailed study, and recommending preferred alternatives.
- Help in developing a consensus and gaining public comment and acceptance.
- Advocate for the proposed improvements.
- Serve as one element of an extensive public and inter-agency involvement process.

# Relationship Between Projects (Tab 2)



# Route 1 Beach Area Improvements

- Program created by DeIDOT to coordinate all transportation projects and studies within the Route 1 Beach Area.
- Addresses recommendations contained in the SR 1 Grid Study and the SR 1 Land Use and Transportation Study.



# Route 1 Legislative Committee

## (Route 1 Traffic Congestion Mitigation Task Force)

- The General Assembly passed a resolution *“creating a committee to study and make recommendations for motorized traffic congestion mitigation along the Route 1 corridor in Sussex County.”*
- Recommended immediate improvements that DeIDOT will implement by the Summer of 2004.
- Currently focused on mid-term improvement ideas and will later identify long-term improvements.
- Decided to avoid making mid-term or long-term recommendations within the project area of the Rehoboth Beach Entrance Improvements.

# Rehoboth Beach Entrance Improvements

- One element of the Route 1 Beach Area Improvements.
- Improve the transportation system for the entrance to Rehoboth Beach.





## Project Team (Tab 2)

- Department of Transportation (DeIDOT)
- Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC)
- Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)
- Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP (WRA)
- Kramer and Associates, Inc. (KA)
- Fitzgerald and Halliday, Inc. (FHI)

# Project Notebook

## Meeting #1

- Tab 1 - Working Group
- Tab 2 - Project Team
- Tab 3 - Schedules
- Tab 4 - Listening Tour and Public Workshop Comments
- Tab 5 - Draft Purpose and Need
- Tab 6 - Development Activity/Proposals in the Project Area
- Tab 7 - Alternatives Development and Evaluation Process
- Tab 8 - Goals and Objectives
- Tab 9 - Reference Documents

# Tentative Calendar and Milestones (Tab 3)

Activity	2003				2004									
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
<b>Project Elements</b>														
Base Data Acquisition	■	■	■											
Purpose and Need Documentation			■	■	■	■								
Natural and Cultural Resource Assessments		■	■	■	■	■	■							
Alternatives Development						■	■	■	■					
Alternatives Evaluation and Refinement								■	■	■	■	■	■	■
NEPA Documentation												■	■	■
Inter-agency Coordination	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
<b>Public Involvement</b>														
Public Workshops			▲						▲				▲	
Working Group Meetings						▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲		▲	▲
Individual Public Outreach Efforts	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

# Tentative Meeting Dates (Tab 3)

## Working Group Meetings

- Thursday, February 5, 2004
- Monday, March 8, 2004
- Wednesday, April 7, 2004
- Monday, May 3, 2004
- Additional Dates To Be Determined

## Public Workshop

- Monday, May 17, 2004



# Working Group Guidelines (Tab 1)

- How We Treat Each Other
- How We Make Recommendations
- How We Communicate with Those Outside The Working Group

# Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Listening Tour and Public Workshop (Tab 4)

- A world class resort should have a world class entrance.
- Eliminate the bottleneck at 1/1A.
- Traffic congestion will negatively impact tourism.
- Don't increase the number of cars in downtown Rehoboth Beach.
- Focus on getting the cars out of (not into) Rehoboth Beach.
- More parking will reduce the traffic problem in Rehoboth Beach.

# Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Listening Tour and Public Workshop (cont.)

- Don't encourage traffic to use State Street (1B).
- Use and promote entrances other than 1A.
- Don't touch the sycamores.
- Solve the transportation problems, then focus on landscaping.
- Fix the roads in West Rehoboth as promised.
- Acquire Suburban Propane before it is too late.

# Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Listening Tour and Public Workshop (cont.)

- West Rehoboth needs direct access to Rehoboth Beach.
- Provide a direct connection between Holland Glade Road and Rehoboth Avenue extended.
- Connect the Junction and Breakwater Trail into Rehoboth Beach.



# Summary of Comments from Stakeholder Listening Tour and Public Workshop (cont.)

- Only experienced bicyclists should be using Route 1.
- A resort community must accommodate the needs of bicyclists.
- Shoppers need to be able to move between Outlets 2 and 3 without using their cars.
- Pedestrian overpasses are needed over Route 1.
- Provide more transit services as an alternative.

# Draft Purpose and Need Statement (Tab 5)

- Project Area
  - SR 1 - South of SR 1B to north of Sea Air Ave
  - SR 1A - SR 1 to Canal Bridge
  - Surrounding communities



# Draft Purpose and Need Statement (cont.)

- Project Purpose
  - Address capacity deficiencies, especially at the SR 1/SR 1A intersection.
  - Improve travel options by improving pedestrian, bicycle and transit facilities.
  - Improve connections between Rehoboth Beach and surrounding communities.
  - Improve safety.
  - Maintain acceptable emergency response times.
  - Maintain Route 1 as a viable emergency evacuation route.
  - Accommodate planned traffic growth.

# Draft Purpose and Need Statement (cont.)

- Project Need
  - Project History
  - System Linkage
  - Traffic Service and Mobility
  - Accessibility/Connectivity
  - Alternative Travel Modes
  - Safety
  - Social Demands/Economic Development



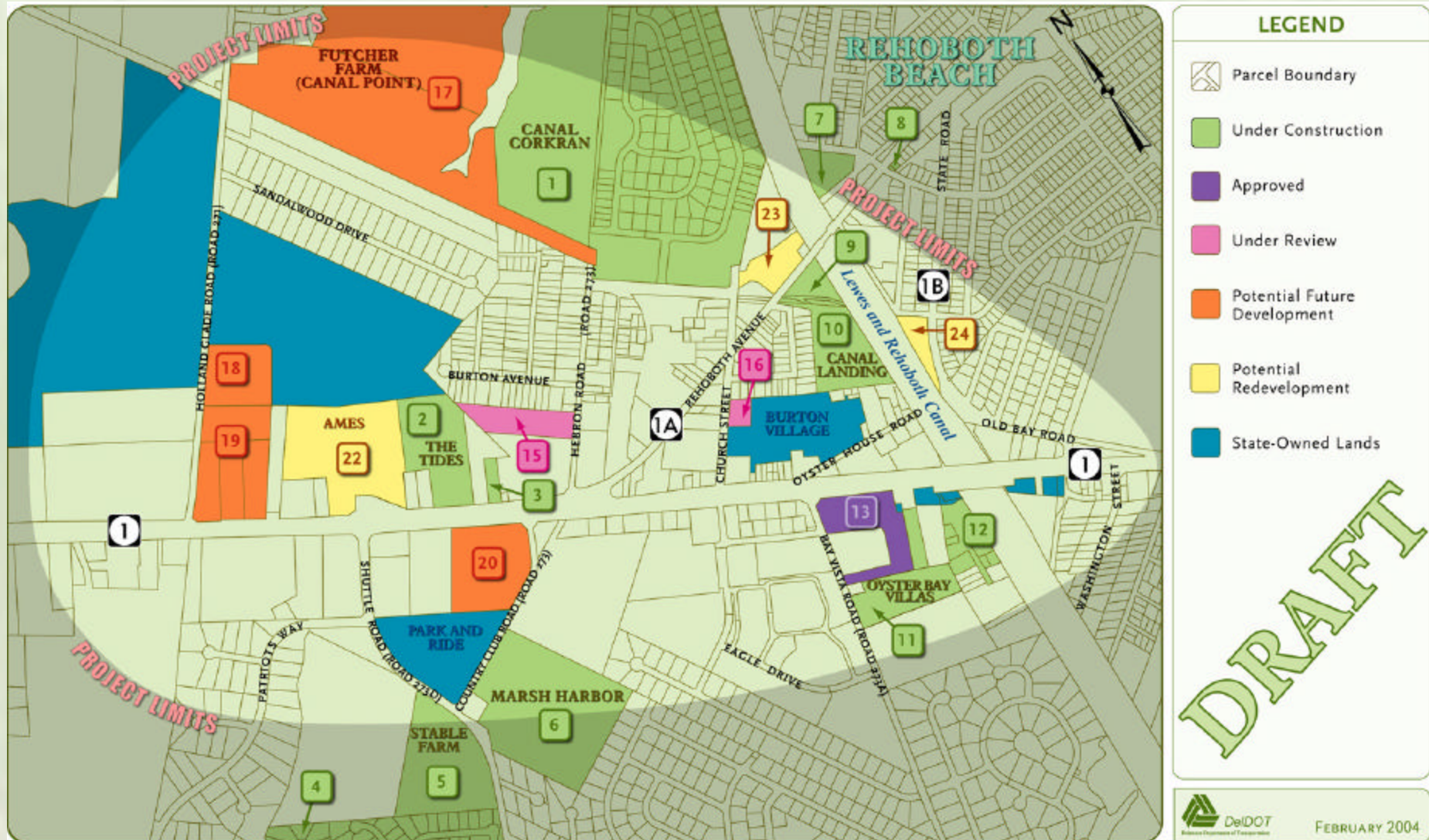
# Development Activity/Proposals in the Project Area (Tab 6)

- Approximately 1950 residential units
  - Developments Under Construction
  - Developments Under Review or Recently Approved By Sussex County, DeIDOT, or the City of Rehoboth Beach
  - Potential Future Developments

# Development Activity/Proposals in the Project Area

- Why is this information important to the Rehoboth Beach Entrance Improvements project?
- Development Activity Map will be updated regularly as new information becomes available.

# Development Activity Map





# Developing and Evaluating Alternatives (Tab 7)

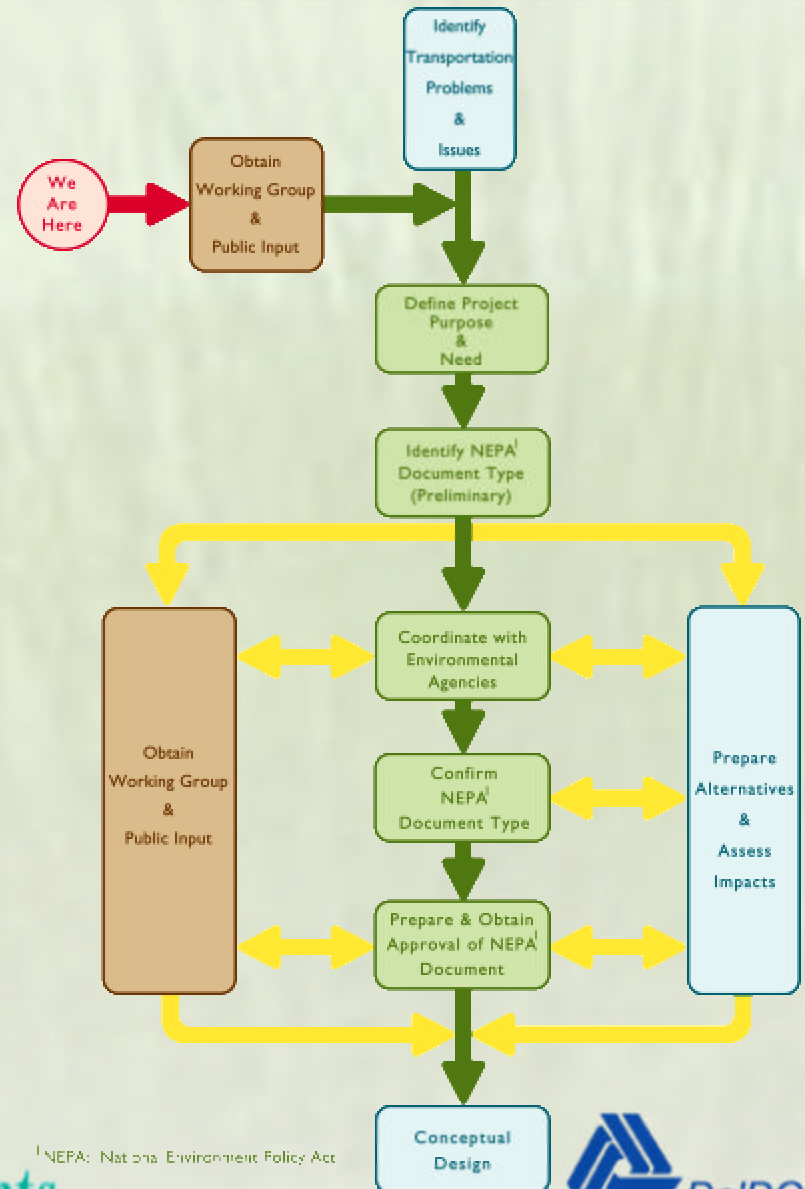
- WG Meeting #1 - Identification of improvement ideas.
- WG Meeting #2 - Discussion and screening of conceptual alternatives.
- WG Meeting #3 - Discussion of impacts and refinements to alternatives under consideration.
- WG Meeting #4 - Discussion of revised alternatives and modifications needed prior to presentation at the Public Workshop.
- Public Workshop #2- Presentation of alternatives.



## Compliance with State and Federal Requirements

Each alternative must be evaluated based on its natural, historic and community resource impacts and must comply with the following regulations:

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Section 4 (f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966
- Environmental Permits and Approvals
- Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990
- Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965



# Draft Goals and Objectives (Tab 8)

# Working Group Identification of Problems and Solutions

# Working Group Questionnaire

**What are the top three specific transportation problems that you would like to see addressed as part of the Rehoboth Beach Entrance Improvements project?**

Examples:

- It is not safe for pedestrians to cross Elm Street at Main Street.
- Traffic congestion at the intersection of Main Street and Walnut Street.
- There is no direct way to get from the Shopping Mall to Downtown.



# Working Group Questionnaire

What are the top three specific improvement ideas that you would like to see implemented as part of this project that would make you feel that your time invested on the Working Group has been worthwhile?

## Examples:

- Provide a connection between Jones Street and Main Street.
- Install a traffic signal at Maple Street at Walnut Street.
- Build sidewalks along Market Street.

# Questions and Discussion

# Next Meeting Date and Agenda